

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A cutting machine for organic plant materials, comprising:  
a stationary main frame having an opening;  
a cutting head mounted in a said stationary main frame accessible through said  
opening to define a cutting zone;  
a feeding-compacting arrangement frame, comprising transporters for feeding the  
material into a said cutting zone of the cutting head in said stationary frame, and having means for  
compacting and/or polarizing mutual distribution of fed particles, and  
horizontal guides extending outwardly and fixed to said main frame along above said  
opening on which said feeding-compacting arrangement frame ~~can~~ is supported so as to be able to  
be moved toward and away from said main frame to permit access to said cutting head; and  
wherein said horizontal guides are located above said opening of said main frame  
and above said feeding-compacting arrangement frame.
2. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 1, wherein the cutting head is a cutterhead with the main axis of rotation being horizontal.
3. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 2, wherein the cutterhead is provided with a number of cutting knives, symmetrically arranged around its perimeter, the number being divisible by 2, 4, 8 or 16.
4. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 3, wherein the cutting knives have cutting edges situated at an angle ( $\delta$ ) relatively to the horizontal direction during the cutting/comminuting operation.

5. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 4, wherein the distance (a) between the lower knife edge of the mouthpiece and a surface of a cylinder described by the cutting edges of the cutting knives of the cutterhead is almost zero.

6. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 4, wherein the angle ( $\delta$ ) is in the range from  $0^\circ$  to  $15^\circ$ .

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 1, further comprising an integral control system (EC).

9. (Previously presented) A cutting machine according to claim 1, further comprising a shield element for the cutting edges of the cutting knives on the side of an access space on the main frame to the cutting head.

10. (Previously presented) A cutting mechanism according to claim 6 wherein the angle ( $\delta$ ) is in the range from  $0^\circ$  to  $10^\circ$ .

11. (New) A cutting mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said horizontal guides comprise extending horizontal rods.